BANDON RECORDER.

THE TIRED COWBIRD

DOWNRIGHT LAZY IS THIS BLACK HOBO OF THE ORIOLE TRIBE.

It Builds No Nests of Its Own, but Lays Its Eggs In the Nests of Other Birds and Never Troubles Itself About Rearing Its Young.

The cowbird was born so tired that if he could compel any other bird to gather his food for him he would do so, but he cannot, so he scratches about all day among the herds of cattle and sheep and goes to roost at night in great bands of hundreds of his relatives, always selecting a bushy tree, such as a cypress, for a night's perch. All up and down the Mississippi river valley is the common summer home of these birds, for only in the depth of winter do they retreat to the warmer mesas of Mexico, whither most of the other birds have preceded them. In the spring following such a winter they are the first to return, filling all the new year air with their chatter and lining the barnyard trees.

You must not think that the glossy black and brown birds so plentiful around southern California barnyards during the winter months are cowbirds, for they are not. They are called "grackles" and seem to be more like crows than blackbirds. You can find their nests, big, bulky affairs, in the orange and cypress trees of almost any of your ranch homes. There are many, many members to the blackbird family, the sweet voiced meadow larks and the gorgeous golden orioles as well as the more sober colored blackbirds and grackles, and of all these but one forces the hatching of her eggs and the feeding of her young on to another bird mother.

In England the cuckoo has this same habit, but the American cuckoo builds her nest and sits on her eggs as nicely as any robin or dove could do. Sometimes our road runner so far forgets herself as to lay her eggs in the nest of a quail or a meadow lark, but not often, but when she does the bird upon whom Mrs. Road Runner tries to impose generally breaks the strange egg or else goes away and leaves the nest alone. Then the field mice and the wood rats have a feast, to which sometimes the road runner comes herself, for she is very fond of eggs as long as they are not her own.

But the cowbird never makes any such poor job as that. She always selects the nest of some smaller bird—in regions where warblers are plentiful the home of one of these little singers is most frequently chosen—and there as many eggs as she thinks the owner of the nest will submit to are laid. Sometimes the warbler goes right on incubating the intruder, but now and then the two old birds get together and dump the egg out on the ground. Nests have been found in which the warblers put a mud floor over the first nest and built another one on top of it, leaving their own eggs to spoil because they knew no other way to rid themselves of the cowbird. If the cowbird comes back by the repaired nest she will put another egg in it, and generally this egg is hatched and raised by the foster pair on whom it has been forced.

It requires about ten or eleven days for the young cowbird to break the shell, while most other birds of its size are two or three days longer, and thus he has a good start on the other nestlings in point of growth. When hatched the cowbird is larger than the sparrow or the warbler and consequently gradually crowds them into the background, taking all the food that should belong to them. As they grow weaker from this he grows stronger, and it is not long until he tips them out of the nest and is sole master of the two old birds, who work ceaselessly to satisfy his awful appetite. In a very few days he gets too large for the little nest and goes out into the branches, where the old birds still continue to feed him in a way they never do their own young after they have left the nest. In Mexico and South America there is a cowbird that sometimes builds a nest of her own and sits upon and hatches her own eggs, but no such thing ever happens among the black bodies of the oriole family found farther north.

How many eggs a cowbird lays no one knows, but as many as seven have been found in one nest of the oven bird, a kind of thrush found in the eastern states. Usually, however, only one egg is laid in each nest, especially if the birds to whom the nest belongs are small and the nest too little to hold more than one of the cowbird's young in comfort. The parent cowbird never disturbs the eggs of any of the birds in whose nests she leaves her own, knowing full well that if she did so the nest builder would in all probability desert her home or throw the strange egg out. Oftentimes more than one cowbird lays in the same nest, and, as no two eggs of these birds are ever exactly alike in color, you may be sure that no cowbird knows her own egg half a minute after she has laid it.—Los Angeles Times.

Why Some Folks Go to Europe.

When New York society doesn't know what else to do it goes abroad. An ambitious woman gets wind of some rival's intended function. Not to be invited or not to be seen among the guests means a slight easily endured if the world be not cognizant of the fact, but intolerant if it is; therefore the ambitious woman sails away to Europe. She may not be gone six weeks, but her absence is thus to be accounted for. In other cases it is known that society takes this absent treatment to cure heart troubles, to escape social obligations that weigh too heavily on the income or, again, from sheer ennui it departs. This restlessness of certain sets in society would be dangerous were it not for the safety valve which that really overworked Atlantic ocean has become of late years. When all else fails, go to Europe.—Boston Herald.

When a Kick Helps.

When one lacks the courage boldly to advance along the perilous course his intelligence counsels, he is lucky if he can and will goad some one into kicking him along it past the point where retreat is impossible. Success.

POLLY LARKIN

"For heaven sake, don't nag, I can stand anything, yes, everything else but that," remarked a man to his wife the other day in the presence of two or three friends who had called at their home to spend a pleasant evening. "I never felt so sorry for anyone in my life as I did for Mr. B——," said one of the guests afterward, "and I don't blame him for speaking right out before us all, and saying 'For heaven sake don't nag.' Why, she gave him no rest whatever, it was fault-finding every moment and not only that, but she was sarcastic, you could detect that disagreeable little ring that is so exasperating, in everything she said. He stood more than my John ever did before he retaliated. My, but she was mad and looked daggers at him from those steel-blue eyes of hers that glitter like a serpent's when she is angry. If I had said half the exasperating and humiliating things that she did, my husband would have simply taken his hat and left the house. There would have been no words over the matter and his actions would have spoken louder than any bitter language he could have used. I would have known he was hurt but he would have never mentioned the fact. Mr. B—— is a martyr, but somehow or other I cannot appreciate his martyrdom, why isn't he man enough to hold his own against his nagging wife. She spoiled the whole evening for everybody. I have thought many times since of what their life must be every day in the week and when they are by themselves when Mrs. B—— could make such an exhibition before us. I blame a man for living with a woman who is constantly nagging and making his life wretched and unhappy. Why, Mr. B—— hardly dares say his soul is his own for fear she will contradict him. I have no patience with her because she is so selfish and unpleasant in her home when he does so much to make her happy, and I haven't a grain of patience with him because he stands her tyranny and her unpleasant ways."

Many women possess this unenviable trait and do not realize to what extent they carry the habit of nagging until they hear some one else, and even then don't think for a moment that they are quite as bad as their nagging neighbor. If they did they would endeavor to turn over a new leaf and break up the habit that causes so much bitterness and genuine misunderstanding in so many home circles. Nagging wrecks the peace of the home circle, and drives the head of the house to the outside world, and the children to the streets for their amusement. It is a habit that grows upon one too, and causes no end of unhappiness and remorse when it is too late. If you are conscious of possessing it in the slightest degree commence at once to weed it out of your life. It is a hard thing to get rid of, for it will spring up as fast as thistles and weeds in a garden, crowding out all the sweet, lovable and womanly thoughts. Nor are women sole aggressors, for you find homes where the men are the naggers and faultfinders; in fact, they are about evenly divided. I have visited friends where the whole atmosphere of the home changed the minute the husband stepped into the house. Instantly the wife became flurried and waited for the little cutting, sarcastic and complaining remarks of the nagging man, who wore the air of a much abused man. The children were warned to keep quiet by their mother before he had hung up his hat, and she would apologize for him by saying, "You know Jim is so nervous that he cannot stand the noise of the children, and he thinks they are the worst little folks in town, when really there is no better." "Pa grumbles all the time," said a little boy on hearing his mother making excuses to her visitor for her husband's crankiness. He spoke the truth, for his father was a nagging faultfinder of the worst kind at home, and the most jovial, wholesouled man imaginable when he got on the outside among the men, or in the company of ladies where he wanted to make a good impression. There is no cause whatever for nagging on either side of the house. If things are going at cross-purposes and pulling this way and that, have a simple, straight-forward talk and straighten out the trouble, and you will soon see your way clear. Such a course will avert many a stormy day, many a scene that would later on be remembered with pain. I have heard little children time and again playing at housekeeping, and invariably they betray the character of their home life in talking to their dolls. If they are used to hearing their mother or father nagging or complaining, their way of addressing their family of dolls betrays the whole unhappy way of living. They are good imitators and at the same time usually speak the truth as well as portray the scenes they are most familiar with. You may hang up your mottoes, "God bless our home," "The Lord will provide," etc., but at the same time have this one emblazoned on an illuminated card so all may read—"For heaven sake don't nag."

Already have our merchants placed their endless holiday stock of things suitable and appropriate for old and young, rich and poor on display. There is a ten cent article that will make some little child feel rich in the possession of the new toy brought by good Kriss Kringle and the thirty-five dollar one for the more favored child of fortune, who will not be one whit happier than the child living down in the squalid and poverty stricken quarters of some alley. I have stood in the toy departments of some of the big department stores and watched the dear little folks as they crowded up and down the aisles. Those that knew way down in their hearts that the merry old Santa Claus would never be able to bring the costly toys to their humble abode, and that they were only intended for the children of the rich, would admire them, then without a single sigh of regret, turn like little philosophers and walk sturdily past the glittering show to those that were cheaper and in reach of the Santa Claus in their alley. Happy little folks were they, and I admired them for the matter-of-fact way in which they took this distinguishing of the rich and the poor. No complaints, no wishing for the costly automobile designed for the juvenile who was to act as his own chauffuer. "That's swell," said one little ragged urchin, "come on Jimmy, let's look at coasters," and exclaimed with delight over the bright, red coaster, with "Conqueror" written in big, black letters across it. "Good name," said one of the boys, "I could slide down hill so fast on that that it would make the rest of the fellows sick. It's got a good brake too. Good name, good brake, good coaster." G-whizz, but I would like to own the 'Conqueror.' I'm going to throw out hints and be good, better than I have been before. I won't sass anyone back, and run errands and bring in the kindling and coal without being asked, and I'm going to sleep every night saying 'Conqueror, Conqueror, come to me,' That aint poetry but its good enough to keep everybody from forgetting that is what I want. Don't want no knife, dominos, game of Pit or anything like that, but just the 'Conqueror'." The little fellows were still chatting about the bright, red coaster when they stepped into the elevator. I saw other boys, well-dressed and with money enough in their pockets to have bought the coveted coaster, but it was beneath their notice, they had dissatisfied faces and looked only at the costly toys, and discussed the price and merits of the same. Happy little lads who lived in the alley, they may come out conquerors in the race of life.

BRIEF REVIEW.

The Science of Flying.

Professor Langley's model flying machine, in the light it throws on the phenomena of air pressure, is a valuable contribution to science. Whether or not it will ever teach men to fly is another matter. He calls it an aerdrome, which signifies air runner. It has four great wings. Unlike those of the birds, they are immovable wings. They extend out from the sides of the machine, and as it travels aloft they cover an immense surface of air per second. The machine is driven forward by a powerful motor operating a propeller. Once in the air the machine will fly until the fuel in the engine gives out. It is necessary to give it a more or less violent start, and this has been accomplished so far by literally shooting the machine from the top of a houseboat. It is placed on a movable track on the roof of the boat and projected suddenly out over the waters of Chesapeake bay. In other words, Professor Langley skims his boat out above the water just as a boy skims an oyster shell. The faster it is shot away the less power is needed to maintain it, so that the motor and propeller are all-sufficient to keep it in the air.

The Oldest Herbarium.

The oldest herbarium in the world is in the Egyptologist Museum at Cairo, and consists of an inconspicuous collection of dried portions of plants taken from wreaths and garlands found in coffins with mummies, and from edible plants which were set in earthen vessels on the floor of the sepulchre as the furniture of the last resting place of their beloved ones. Many of these floral remains are so well preserved that, after being treated with warm water, they can be handled like modern herbarium specimens. The colors, too, are preserved in a remarkable way.

Red Blotch on Jupiter.

In 1878 something happened on Jupiter which caused a red blotch to appear in his southern hemisphere near one of the great belts that cross his disk like huge bands of colored clouds. It was 30,000 miles long and 8000 miles broad, yet, after all, only a little patch on the mighty disk! It has remained ever since, sometimes brightening to almost the crimson hue of fire and sometimes fading nearly to invisibility, yet always, even when faintest, certifying its presence and its power by keeping the area originally covered by it clear of all other objects.

The Empire of Peace.

The Gnostics, a religious sect, has incorporated and established what is to be the "White City and Temple" in the Hermosa Tract, north of Redondo, Southern California. Biblical directions for the purchase were found in the prophecy of Zacharias. The plans of the society are given out in a booklet entitled "The Imperial Council of the Empire of Peace."

Registered by Compass.

A recent French invention is a ship's compass so mounted that as it swings round with the variations in the pointing of the vessel it produces automatically, through electric connection, a chart on a sheet of paper, by consulting which the ship's officers can see what the course was at any moment of the voyage.

America is to manufacture typewriters for Syria, the machines being fitted with a new alphabet of fifty characters, which was arranged recently by Selim Haddad, a Syrian artist and inventor. The actual Syrian alphabet contains 630 characters.

WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]

Elliott Woods, the superintendent of the capitol, and Mr. Coffin, the manager of the house restaurant, are convinced that there will be no complaints this winter on the restaurant proposition. A great archway has been cut in the wall between what were formerly the two separate dining rooms, and a steam table in the center will afford excellent facilities for promptly feeding the hungry in all parts of the restaurant. Besides this, the bill of fare will be much less elaborate, and it is the present intention to have all the dishes enumerated on the bill of fare ready to serve immediately, beginning at noon, thus doing away with the long delays incident upon the preparation of special orders. Members of the house may notice other improvements in their wing of the capitol building, but it is safe to say they will not be quite so pleased over any of them as they will be with the restaurant improvements.

Capitol Power Plant.

Work will not be begun until next fall on the new capitol power plant, which, when completed, will furnish the power for heating, lighting and ventilating the capitol building, the Congressional library and the senate and house office buildings now under course of construction. The appropriation for the power plant, which will probably be the biggest of its kind in the country, was made at the last session of congress, but work on the office buildings is not sufficiently under way to warrant an immediate beginning of the improvements in the capitol engine room.

Nurses to Erect a Monument.

The Spanish-American war nurses, whose annual convention was held recently at St. Louis, decided by unanimous vote to erect a costly and handsome monument in the Arlington National cemetery to the memory of those "humane and patriotic army nurses who died as a result of their exposure in the enervating climate of the tropics during the war with Spain and the insurrection in the Philippines." The design of the monument has not been decided upon, but many members are said to favor a figure representing a nurse in her service uniform ready for duty.

Civil Service at Panama.

President Roosevelt has signed an order completed by the civil service and isthmian canal commissions, extending the civil service regulations over the employees of the canal commission. The order embraces all employees except those appointed by the president and laborers.

New Treaty With Germany.

Negotiations have been initiated for a treaty of arbitration between Germany and the United States. Several days ago President Roosevelt suggested to Baron Sternburg, the German ambassador, that a treaty of arbitration between the United States and Germany would, in his judgment, be very desirable. Ambassador Sternburg coincided in that view and told the president that he would inquire of his government what steps if any it desired to take in the matter. Soon after Ambassador Sternburg called upon President Roosevelt and informed him that the German government had expressed itself as entirely agreeable to the president's proposition and that he had been directed to open formal negotiations for such a treaty.

Secretary Hay's Joke.

Diplomats stationed in Washington are gratified with the announcement by President Roosevelt that Secretary Hay will remain in the cabinet for another four years. This is because the diplomats to a man esteem Secretary Hay very highly. For the most part they know his views on leading questions. He is extremely practical, and he is frank.

From time to time there has been talk of Secretary Hay retiring because of ill health. As a matter of fact, although he is sixty-five years old, he is in excellent condition physically. He has had his joke about the frequent rumors of his poor health. To a friend who once congratulated him upon his excellent appearance he said with assumed weariness, "Ah, yes, but I am suffering from an incurable disease."

The friend, surprised, expressed disbelief, but Mr. Hay insisted his malady was hopeless. The friend said perhaps it was not really so bad, and what was the disease?

"Old age," replied the secretary.

The President's Son.

Young Theodore Roosevelt, who has been here for some weeks, having left school because of an affliction of his eyes, will not return to Groton, but will remain in Washington for the rest of the session. He has a tutor from Boston, Matthew Lee, a nephew of the first Mrs. Roosevelt, who was Miss Alice Lee of Boston.

Rural Free Delivery.

When congress created the rural free delivery branch of the postal service it did not realize that it was establishing the greatest political machine of the United States. The fact has been recently impressing itself in a most serious manner upon senators and representatives, and they have brought it to the attention of the president, who has directed the civil service commission to make an investigation with a view to shearing free delivery carriers of political endeavors.

In the recent election the fact was developed that rural free delivery carriers filled certain congressional districts with literature opposing the reelection of certain members of congress.

The president is said to realize the danger of such participation in politics by free delivery carriers and will frame additions to the civil service regulations that will prevent them from taking any obnoxious part in politics.

CARL SCHOFIELD.

Good Training.

Miss Sightseer (in Egypt)—Mr. Newrich, you scale up these rocks as if you'd been climbing pyramids all your life! Were you bred in the mountains? Mr. Newrich—Oh, no; but I carried a hod up a two story ladder for a good many years before I struck oil.—Detroit Free Press.

Love.

George—Are you quite sure that you really love me? Bessie—Oh, yes; certain of it. I never knew any one that could make me so furiously angry at times!—Exchange.

PIGEON COURTSHIP.

It Sometimes Leads to Battles That Result In Death.

On a south Jersey farm, which was the home of a thousand pigeons and which was conducted by a woman who had formerly been a bookkeeper in Philadelphia, was found one particularly fine coop which was the abiding place of young doves that had reached the mating season. Purposely these young birds were associated together so that they might select their life companions.

The interior of the walls of the coop were filled with boxes, and those pigeons which had mated would select one of these boxes for their home and nest.

This period of courtship is one filled with excitement for the birds. Two young pigeon cocks, having selected the same hen for a mate, have been known to fight to the death in their rivalry. The method of combat is peculiar. The beak and wings alone are used, the combatants catching each other with their beaks by the skin of the head and beating each other with their strong wings.

Having once chosen his mate, the dove, with an occasional exception, remains constant to her through life. The occasional instances of infidelity cause discord in the coop, for when one pigeon tires of his mate and seeks another he meets a vigorous protest from the companion of the bird which he covets. When they have agreed to spend their lives together Mr. and Mrs. Dove select a box and the laying begins. The parent birds may then be less than eight months old.—Era Magazine.

GODPARENTS.

An Ancient Institution, Doubtless of Jewish Origin.

We must doubtless look to the Jews for the origin of godfathers and godmothers. The use of them in the primitive church is so early that it is not easy to fix a time for their beginning. Some of the most ancient fathers make mention of them, and through all the successive ages afterward we find the use of them continued without any interruption. By a constitution of Edmund, archbishop of Canterbury, 1236, and in a synod held at Worcester, 1240, a provision was made that there should be for every male child two godfathers and one godmother and for every female one godfather and two godmothers. King Henry VIII., referring to the Princess Elizabeth, says:

My lord of Canterbury,
I have a suit which you must not deny me:
That is, a fair young maid that yet wants baptism,
You must be godfather and answer for her.

—"Henry VIII," Act 5, Scene 3.

A constitution of 1281 makes provision for a Christian name being changed at confirmation. This is practically a renaming of the child. The manner in which it was done was for the bishop to use the name in the invocation and afterward for him to sign a certificate that he had so confirmed a person by such new name. It is possible that this practice might have been in Shakespeare's mind when he wrote:

Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized;
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

—"Romeo and Juliet," Act 2, Scene 2.

Westminster Review.

BATHING AND HEALTH.

Benefits to Be Derived From Cold Water and Rubbing.

A cold bath—we might as well get at the straight of the thing—is not really a matter of cleanliness so much as a matter of getting the skin livened up and the capillaries and veins next to the surface full of blood. Ice cold water or scalding hot water will do that, but tepid water—no, no!

The skin is almost exactly the same kind of an excreting organ as the lungs. The same products seep through the pores as are carried off in the breath, and the air purifies the blood in the same way. But the greater part of the skin is smothered up in clothes day and night. What the cold water of the bath dissolves is matter well away. And the rubbing dry is pretty vigorous exercise if you want to know. Any rubbing is bound to push the blood along toward the heart and help the circulation, because there are valves in the veins which prevent the blood from going in any other direction than toward the heart. Whatever loose flakes of outer cuticle are rubbed off we needn't worry about; plenty more where they came from. The extra food the increased appetite demands will make good that trifling loss.—Eugene Wood in Everybody's Magazine.

The Spinning Wheel In Ireland.

The spinning wheel and the flax wheel are still found in the Irish cottages, where many a girl has her wedding dowry of linen and homespun made at home. Although it is more the task of the older women, there are still girls who do their spinning stint and lay by a certain amount for their wedding outfit. A pleasant sight it is to see the elderly women outside their cottage doors spinning the flax or the wool. As long as the weather is warm the sturdy Irishwoman, old or young, scorns a roof except to sleep under. The free air and sunshine are her choice, and the sweet sky is the fairest roof.

A Lord Sold Into Slavery.

Charles Reade found the hero of his novel, "The Wandering Heir," in the person of Lord Altham of Ireland, who was sold as a "redemptioner" at Philadelphia in 1728 and who served for twelve years in effect as a slave to one or more masters in Lancaster county, Pa. The young nobleman was recognized by two Irishmen who came by accident to the house where he lived, and Admiral Vernon afterward took him back to Ireland. Reade laid the scene of Lord Altham's servitude in northern Delaware, but it is pretty well established that this was an error.

A Conversion.

A country circus advertised that "at 12 o'clock the cannibals will be fed." A large crowd assembled, but to everybody's disappointment the savages ate potatoes. In reply to some indignant questions the manager said: "But, gentlemen, don't you see that their diet is evidence of my skill? I have converted them into vegetarians."—Fliegende Blatter.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Passing of Spellbinder.

The campaigns of two candidates who won notable victories were marked by the liberal and novel use of advertising.

Mr. Cortelyou inserted pages of special and costly advertising in high class magazines and periodicals and in selected newspapers containing judicious praise of President Roosevelt. The advertisements were carefully and cleverly constructed. They contained a few inspiring quotations from Mr. Roosevelt's speeches and writings, a few praiseful opinions of Mr. Roosevelt's character and career from men of note and a brief sketch of the man and his deeds. The man was the theme. Some prominent Republicans made speeches and a few spellbinders were employed, but undoubtedly the largest single item in the bill of expenses was advertising.

Governor Elect Douglas of Massachusetts, who accomplished the remarkable feat of getting elected governor as a Democrat in a Republican landslide, announced that he would do his campaigning through the newspapers and periodicals. He advertised his political opinions and pledges just as he advertised his shoes.

That intelligent advertising of this kind is potent cannot be gainsaid. The results indicate it. But do not these advertising experiments presage the passing of the spellbinders?—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Tea Growing In South Carolina.

Dr. Charles A. Shepard of South Carolina has proved on his own plantation at Summerville, twenty miles out of Charleston, that the growing of tea can be carried on successfully and profitably. He has been doing this for the past twelve years, with such good results that the secretary of agriculture and the congress of the United States highly approve his deeds, and both are extending him liberal assistance.

"My idea from the start," said Dr. Shepard, "was to add an additional crop to the farm products of the country. The road to agricultural supremacy is through diversifying. Tea raising in the United States is certainly practicable. It is no new thing in this country, for in the old days a French priest planted tea on the banks of the Ashley river. But owing to the difference in the cost of labor the United States cannot compete with the orient in low grade of cheap teas. It will pay us to produce only that of the highest quality and which brings a high price in market. The tea grown on my place in South Carolina compares with the best that is imported from eastern lands."—Washington Post.

Sugared Wood.

Mr. Powell, a Liverpool merchant, has perfected a process for vulcanizing wood comparable in some respects with the Bessemer process of converting iron into steel. After a prolonged series of experiments he has discovered a method of so treating timber as to secure even from the soft woods a largely increased toughness and hardness. The treatment to which the timber is subjected is, roughly speaking, that of saturation at boiling point with a solution of sugar, the water being afterward evaporated at a high temperature. The result is to leave the pores and the interstices of the wood filled in with solid matter, and the timber vulcanized, preserved and seasoned. The nature of moderately soft wood, it is claimed, is in this way changed to a tough and hard substance without brittleness and also without any tendency to split or break. It is also rendered remarkably impervious to water. Hard wood similarly treated derives similar benefit. It is claimed that the process may be completed and the timber turned out ready for use in a few days.

Visitors In Parliament.

The country cousin cares nothing for the commons, but is all eagerness to visit the house of lords. He persists in taking the clerks at the table for the prime minister and the leader of the opposition. He asks for Mr. Balfour, and on being shown a pair of boots on the table brutally demands the prime minister's head, which, according to Mr. Lloyd-George, may be anywhere but on the treasury bench. "Where does Mr. Healy sit?" is an inquiry neatly countered by the reply that it is sometimes on Mr. Redmond, and the embodiment of the law seated on the woolsack prompts the query, "Is it alive?" a question to which Mr. Lloyd-George's dissenting friends in Scotland would mournfully respond, "Very much so."—London Outlook.

Triumph For the English Tongue.

An English speaking nation has grown up on the west side of the Atlantic which has done and is doing more than the parent country to give the tongue a world vogue. Two-thirds of the people who speak English live in the United States. The industrial and commercial conquests which this country is gaining tell in favor of its people's tongue. A century ago French, Spanish and German were far ahead of English in the number of persons who used them as a vehicle of speech. But in the lapse of time English has passed all of them and is spoken by more people today than is any other civilized tongue.—Chicago Journal.

Municipal Medicine.

Switzerland contemplates a curious object lesson in municipal socialism. The city of Zurich is making an experiment in the communizing of the medical services of the town. The conditions of the experiment are that each inhabitant pays a year's tax of 3s. 7½d., and that the product of £20,000 is divided in salaries of £500 a year among forty medical men, who will attend the inhabitants gratuitously.

Superfluous Details.

Caller (looking at picture)—Does your mamma paint? Little Son—Yes, but she's through with that an' is puttin' on the powder now. She'll be down in a minute.

Accepted.

"Jackson tells me the last thing he wrote was accepted. Do you know what it was?"

"Yes; his resignation."—London Million.

Rats and conquerors must expect no mercy in misfortune.—Cotton.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

Korean girls over seven are all taught at home by tutors.

The pack horses of Nagasaki, Japan, wear shoes of straw.

Motor cars intended for desert traveling will arrive at Khartum soon.

At the close of 1903 the London police had a collection of 70,000 sets of finger prints of criminals.

A motor cyclist in England was arrested because his coat tails hid the number of his machine from a policeman's view.

Betsy Meagher of County Sligo, who died the other day at the age of 125, used to rail at her seventy-five-year-old daughter for keeping late hours.

The important question, When does a bride cease to be a bride? is decided by the London Queen, which says she becomes a "wife" at the expiration of six weeks after the wedding.

The trade with Brazil last year has never been surpassed except in the three record years of 1890, 1891 and 1892. It was $5,950,000 higher than the average of the last ten years.

Nelson's statue at the Royal Naval college, Greenwich, was found the other morning with its nose painted a bright red. The authorities are making a determined attempt to find the guilty party.

Dr. Thorley, a medical town councilor at Bolton, England, calls small bedrooms death traps, and the council is seeking parliamentary powers to prescribe a minimum cubic space for bedrooms.

Shepherds started the fire which in the last week of August caused a damage of 8,000,000 francs on the island of Corsica. It lasted three days and destroyed many vineyards, orchards and other valuable grounds.

Crowning the German system of industrial education stand the great technical high schools. Their name and fame have gone out into every country where men are interested in the application of science in industry.

The Canadian Association of Steam Engineers has decided to petition the Ontario legislature to pass an act requiring every man in charge of a steam engine of over twenty-five horse power to have an engineer's certificate.

The municipality of Reichenberg, Bohemia, intends to erect a large electric plant to supply light for neighboring small towns and industrial establishments and another plant to furnish electric light to the suburbs of the city.

By means of an accidental short circuit in one of the junction boxes in an electric main in Melbourne, Australia, an alarm was sent in to every fire department station, and 1,500 calls were received at the same instant in the head telephone office.

The French government has authorized the French West African bank to increase its capital and to open a branch in Monrovia. Hitherto the finances of Liberia have been almost wholly in German hands, though there has been no bank in the republic.

The eldest children of two Japanese families cannot marry, for the eldest child must always live at home and so keep the family home from passing into strange hands. If a man marries a Japanese heiress he has to take her family name if he is poor himself.

The California grand lodge of Masons, which includes the subordinate lodges of Hawaii, is planning to build in San Francisco a temple large enough to accommodate all grand bodies of the craft within its jurisdiction. The present temple is about forty years old.

A steel girder fell while being hoisted to the top of a San Francisco building and struck a house mover's wooden roller, which ricochetted across the street, passed through the window of a crockery store and swept a fifty foot counter completely clear of the bric-a-brac, cut glass, dinner sets, vases, etc., that were upon it.

Civet is one of the essential ingredients of nearly all the high class perfumes made, so there is always a ready sale for it in the market. The Abyssinians put this civet in small cattle horns, which are packed in cases. It is sold by the ounce, the price ranging from $1.60 to $3.24 per ounce, according to purity and color.

The officers of the consolidated street car lines of Oakland, Cal., have fitted up a spacious and thoroughly equipped athletic and social club for their employees, including billiard, pool and card rooms, reading room, luncheon, gymnasium, bowling alley, shooting gallery and baths. The only expenses of the members will be for janitor and other service.

A French firm is about to place on the market a novelty in postal cards. To an ordinary pictorial card is affixed a very thin transparent gelatin disk, on which is impressed a gramophone musical record. A hole is pierced through the center of the disk, and the post card can be placed on an ordinary "talking machine" and played in the usual way.

Some boys at Minneapolis were caught trying to rob a mail box in a novel way the other day. They had a big grasshopper tied to the end of a bit of thread. They lowered the insect into the little box, and it caught a letter with its claws and hung on to it while being drawn out. The boys had taken several letters from the box in this way before they were caught.

The British admiralty is investigating a nice little naval scandal. It appears that the ship's police at the various naval schools have been allowing the names of men on furlough to remain on the mess books and so draw rations, the value of the rations being appropriated by the men who made the false entries. This has been going on for years and has cost England a large sum of money.

Sacred Mountains In Japan.

Travelers in Japan are astonished to find the grandest shrines throughout the land situated on the tops of high, precipitous mountains. This is because every mountain in that country is dedicated to some deity who is believed to be its guardian. These temple grounds are covered with the oldest and largest forest trees, and to the eyes of the people below the effect of the clouds which hover around the peak has originated the belief that the gods hold the power over the clouds to give or withhold rain.